CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A print job handling system, said system comprising:

a network adapted to interconnect at least one computer and peripheral devices;

5   a plurality of network printers coupled to said network, and adapted to execute

print jobs; and

at least one printer control panel coupled to at least one of said network printers;

wherein said control panel comprises a control panel display adapted to display

information about currently pending print jobs that have been sent to the control panel's

10   associated network printer, along with an indication of the ability of the control panel's

associated network printer to execute pending print jobs; and

wherein said control panel comprises an input mechanism adapted to allow a net-

work user to, via said control panel and upon an indication that a print job cannot be exe-

cuted or executed satisfactory to the user, re-route a print job from the control panel's as-

15   sociated printer to an alternate network printer.

2.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said alternate network printer supports the

capabilities needed to execute the re-routed print job.

3.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said alternate network printer is the clos-

est geographically of network printers that support the capabilities needed to execute the

20   re-routed print job.

4.   The system of Claim 1, wherein an indication that a print job cannot be

executed satisfactory to the network user comprises a time delay.

5.   A print job handling system, said system comprising:

a network adapted to interconnect at least one computer and peripheral devices;

a plurality of network printers coupled to said network, and adapted to execute print jobs; and

5   at least one printer control panel coupled to at least one of said network printers;

wherein said control panel comprises a control panel display adapted to display information about currently pending print jobs that have been sent to the control panel's associated network printer, along with an indication of the ability of the control panel's associated network printer to execute pending print jobs;

10   wherein said control panel comprises an input mechanism adapted to allow a network user to, via said control panel and upon an indication that a print job cannot be executed or executed satisfactory to the user, re-route a print job from the control panel's associated printer to an alternate network printer; and

wherein said control panel is adapted to, upon input via said input mechanism by

15   the by the network user, automatically cause a print job re-route to a network printer determined by said system to be appropriate.

6.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said control panel is adapted to allow a network user to cause a print job re-route to an alternate network printer from a list of network printers displayed by said control panel display.

20   7.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said control panel is adapted to allow a network user to cause a print job re-route from a plurality of pending print jobs displayed by said control panel display.

8.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said control panel display is adapted to display the location of the alternate network printer chosen for executing a re-routed print job.

9.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said control panel display is adapted to display differences in the capabilities of printer associated with said control panel and other network printers to be considered for re-routing a print job.

10.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said control panel is adapted to allow a network user to cancel a print job.

11.   A print job handling method comprising:

via a network, interconnecting at least one computer and peripheral devices;

coupling to said network, a plurality of network printers adapted to execute print jobs;

via a control panel coupled to at least one of said network printers, displaying information about currently pending print jobs that have been sent to the control panel's associated network printer, along with an indication of the ability of the control panel's associated network printer to execute pending print jobs; and

via said control panel, and upon an indication that a print job cannot be executed or executed satisfactory to the user, allowing a user to re-route a print job from the control panel's associated printer to an alternate network printer.

12.   The method of Claim 11, wherein said alternate network printer supports the capabilities needed to execute the re-routed print job.

13.   The method of Claim 11, wherein said alternate network printer is the closest geographically of network printers that support the capabilities needed to execute the re-routed print job.

14.   The method of Claim 11, wherein an indication that a print job cannot be executed satisfactory to the network user comprises a time delay.

15.   The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

upon input via said control panel by the network user, automatically re-routing a print job to a network printer determined to be appropriate.

16.   The method of Claim 11, further comprising;

upon input via said control panel by the network user, re-routing a print job to an alternate network printer from a list of network printers displayed by said control panel.

17.   The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

upon input via said control panel by the network user, re-routing a print job to an alternate network printer from a plurality of pending print jobs displayed by said control panel.

18.   The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

via said control panel, displaying the location of the alternate network printer chosen for executing a re-routed print job.

19.   The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

via said control panel, displaying differences in the capabilities of printer associated with said control panel and other network printers to be considered for re-routing a print job.

20.   The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

upon input via said control panel by the network user, canceling a print job.